(a) Whether the Government have studied the Supreme Court's judgement placing restrictions ranging from the suspension of vehicle licences to keep automobiles off the road to address the alarming levels of air pollution in the capital as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated November 10, 1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the follow-up action taken to check ambient air pollution level exceeding the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines in 36 Indian cities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The matter regarding pollution from automobiles in Delhi was taken up by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. However, no judgement has been passed placing restrictions to keep automobiles off the road.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A number of measures are being taken/proposed for controlling vehicular pollution in the country. These include the following:

(i) Gross emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and are being enforced by the Departments of Transport of the various States.

(ii) Stricter emission norms have been introduced with effect from 1.4.1996 and stricter norms are to be introduced effective from 1.4.2000. The automobile manufacturers have to upgrade their technology to meet these emission norms.

(iii) Low-lead petrol (0.15 grammes/litre) has been introduced throughout the country from 1.1.1997.

(iv) A major programme for introduction of unleaded petrol and catalytic converter fitted vehicles is under implementation. The first phase covering the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai, came into effect on 1.4.1995. In the next phase, effective from 1.1.1999, catalytic converter fitted vehicles would be introduced in the Capitals of all States and UTs. Unleaded petrol is planned to be supplied throughout the country from 1.4.2000.

(v) Diesel with a sulphur content of 0.5% has already been introduced in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai from 1.4.1995. Low-sulphur diesel (0.25%) is planned to be introduced throughout the country from 1.4.1999.

(vi) Surveys have been conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board on the vehicular emissions in the major cities and towns in the country. The findings of the survey have been used for the preparation of measures for control as well as abatement of vehicular pollution in the major cities.

(vii) The ambient air quality of various cities and towns are being monitored through a network of 290 monitoring stations under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme. In Delhi, a total of ten ambient air quality monitoring stations have been set up. The data form the basis for analysis of air quality trends in different regions against the prescribed standards.

(viii) The Transport Department of the Government of NCT of Delhi, has launched an awareness campaign on vehicular pollution which includes health effects resulting from vehicular pollution, the maintenance measures for its control and the punitive action for violation of pollution control regulations. A Special Task Force, under the chairmanship of Lt. Governor, Delhi, has been set up for control of vehicular pollution in Delhi.

Joint Forest Management Programme

1662. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has recently announced to provide some facilities under its Rs. 800 crore joint Forest Management Programme in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of forest staff likely to be benefited under the programme;

(c) whether Non-Governmental Organisations involved in environmental conservation will also be benefited; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) A Forestry Project with an outlay of Rs. 245.9 crores is under implementation in Madhya Pradesh with assistance from the World Bank since 1995-96. The project supports Joint Forest Management for implementation of various activities and about 1,140 village communities participating in the management of about 75,000 hectares forest land would be benefited by improved access to forest products and improved agriculture and alternative income generating activities from village resource development programme and eco-development programme. The forest staff will be benefited by training in various disciplines of forestry and extension activities.

(c) and (d) The project envisages active involvement of non-governmental organisations in the implementation of some of the components like village level eco-development programmes. The services and expertise of non-

governmental organisations is being utilised for orientation and training of forest department staff and local community in joint forest management.

[Translation]

Burning of Sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh

1663. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the area in hectares in which sugarcane crop has been burnt by the farmers due to non-procurement of sugarcane by the sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether Government propose to give compensation for the crop burnt;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) As per the information received from the State Government, during the last sugar season, i.e., 1995-96, there was no incidence in the knowledge of the State Government where farmers have burnt their sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh. As regards the current season, 1996-97, no such report has been received either from the State Government or from the sugar mills.

[English]

Loss to DMS

1664. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Milk Scheme is incurring huge loss for the past few years on account of the heavy administrative and overhead expenses;

(b) if so, the extent to which it has incurred loss, year-wise;

(c) whether any irregularities/short comings have been noticed in the procurement, processing and distribution of the milk and milk products;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the audit objections; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) The selling price of DMS milk was kept generally at levels lower than the full cost of procurement, processing and distribution. As a result of this it becomes necessary to provide budgetary support for its operations. Budgetary support provided in the last five years is as under :

Year	Budgetary support (Rs. in crores)
1991-92	44.52
1992-93	27.86
1993-94	9.70
1994-95	4.63
1995-96	45.14

(c) to (e) The information is being collected.

[Translation]

Payment of Cane Prices

1665. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sugar mills are not paying the sugarcane price fixed by the Union Government to the cane growers of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the price at which the procurement of sugarcane is being done by the sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) the reason for different prices of sugarcane prevailing in the same State;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps to compensate the sugarcane growers receiving the less prices; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The sugar mills in public and cooperative sectors of Uttar Pradesh are paying cane price at Rs. 72 to Rs. 76 per quintal during the current season 1996-97, while most of the sugar mills pertaining to private sector are paying Rs. 70 per quintal as per the settlement arrived at between the representatives of the sugar mills and the sugarcane growers.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

[English]

Investment in Agriculture Sector

1666. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI S.K. KARVENDHAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :